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that there is not more of it, but no one will read its pages without getting a clearer idea of what clean government means.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Bruce, P. A. *Institutional History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century.*

Two vols. Pp. xix, 1404. Price, \$6.00 New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

It is impossible in a review, a few hundred words in length, to criticize in detail a work such as Dr. Bruce has written upon the early institutional history of Virginia. Like his previous volumes upon the economic and the social aspects of Virginia in the seventeenth century, this account of the "inquiry into the religious, moral, educational, legal, military and political condition of the people" of the colony is not only "based upon original and contemporary records," but is presented with such wealth of detail and illustration as to command the admiration of every special student of early colonial history. All three of Dr. Bruce's works appeal rather to the historian than to the lay reader of history.

Volume one of the *Institutional History* contains three parts, dealing severally with religion and morals, education, and legal administration. The evidence presented by Dr. Bruce shows more zealous observance of religion and higher public standards of morality than have generally been attributed to the Virginians of the seventeenth century; but the evidence presented seems to justify the author's favorable judgment. Likewise, the attention given to education is shown to have been general and persistent; and the planting class, as shown by "the surviving letters of the foremost Virginians of the seventeenth century," contained many men of culture. The development of the administration of justice in the county and general courts is admirably presented, a third of the first volume being devoted to that subject.

The second volume is concerned with the military system and political condition of the colony, one-third of the space being given to the former subject and two-thirds to the latter. The forty-two chapters, dealing with the political affairs of Virginia, the executive and legislative machinery of government, and the methods of taxation, make a most notable contribution to the subject. In this part of the work, the author is at his best. Among the minor features of volume two, mention may well be made of the two chapters upon pirates. During the two decades of the seventeenth century, piratical raids were of frequent occurrence, and were a constant menace to the plantations along the coast.

Doctor Bruce is to be congratulated upon having brought to a successful end the task he set himself some twenty years ago of presenting "a complete picture of all the conditions prevailing in Virginia previous to 1700." The accomplishment of his purpose has required a vast amount of labor, all of which has been performed with most conscientious accuracy and fairness.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.